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PATENT  
450100-05046

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Yoshikazu TAKASHIMA et al.  
Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith  
International Application No.: PCT/JP04/004648  
International Filing Date: March 31, 2004  
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS,  
INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD, PROGRAM  
STORAGE MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM

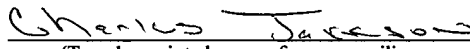
745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10151

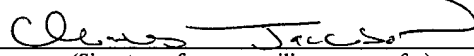
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Date of Deposit: December 22, 2004

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows: